

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 147094

ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /015 R

66011

DRAFTED BY:IO/HDC:RANDREW:LW

APPROVED BY:IO/HDC:RANDREW

-----069434 241013Z /21

R 232338Z JUN 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 147094

FOLLOWING REPEAT ISLAMABAD 6433 ACTION SECSTATE JUNE 23.

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 6433

AIDAC

FOR LEVINTOW ASIA/PN FROM WOLFFER

E.O. 11652: GDS

SUBJECT: CLOSING OF WHO OFFICE-PAKISTAN

REF: (A) STATE 141864 (B) ISLAMABAD 6073

SUMMARY: WHO'S REGIONAL OFFICE IN ALEXANDRIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN HAVE APPARENTLY AGREED TO THE SHUTDOWN OF THE WHO OFFICE IN PAKISTAN EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 30TH. WHO ADVISORS WOULD CONTINUE WORKING HERE WITH ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT FROM UNDP. THERE IS SPECULATION THAT VARIOUS INTERESTS MIGHT BE SERVED BY HAVING AN ARAB OR IRANIAN AS HEAD OF WHO HERE, IN PLACE OF THE EXCEPTIONALLY CAPABLE SPANIARD WHO CURRENTLY ENCUMBERS THE WHO REP JOB IN AN ACTING CAPACITY, AND THAT THE OFFICE MIGHT LATER BE REOPENED. WE DEPLORE THE EARLY DEPARTURE OF THE INCUMBENT AND INVITE WASHINGTON GUIDANCE AND INITIATIVES TO FORESTALL HIS DEPARTURE AND PREVENT THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 147094

SHUTDOWN OF THE OFFICE. END OF SUMMARY.

1. GOP HAS APPARENTLY AGREED TO CLOSING DOWN OF WHO OFFICE IN PAKISTAN AND ASKED WHO TO POSTPONE IMPLEMENTATION UNTIL SEPTEMBER 30 TO ALLOW TIME FOR UNDP TO GEAR UP TO HANDLE ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS OF WHO/PAKISTAN OPERATIONS.

2. WE ARE NOT CERTAIN WHY WHO/ALEXANDRIA INITIATED THIS ACTION OR WHY GOP ACCEDED TO IT. FUNDING PROBLEMS WOULD NOT APPEAR TO BE THE REASON. THE BUDGET FOR THE WHO REPRESENTATIVE'S OFFICE IN PAKISTAN FOR THE CURRENT YEAR IS \$78,200. HOWEVER, SINCE THE SALARY OF THE ACTING REPRESENTATIVE, WHO IS ALSO CONSULTANT MALARIOLOGIST, IS PAID FROM THE MALARIA CONTROL BUDGET, AND SINCE THE POSITION OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER HAS NEVER BEEN FILLED, THE AMOUNT ACTUALLY PROVIDED FROM THE WHO BUDGET IS ONLY \$13,100.

3. ECONOMIC AFFAIRS DIVISION SECRETARY TOLD USAID ACTING DIRECTOR THAT THE MOVE WOULD NOT AFFECT WHO COMMITMENTS IN PAKISTAN. LONG AND SHORT-TERM ADVISORS WOULD GET THEIR BACKSTOPPING THROUGH UNDP. WHEN ACTING DIRECTOR CITED SUCH ISSUES AS DESIRABILITY OF COORDINATION FOCAL POINT FOR WHO ACTIVITIES AND LIKELY DELAYS IN WHO ADVISORS HAVING TO REFER MATTERS TO ALEXANDRIA FOR DECISION. EAD SECRETARY REPLIED THAT MANY COUNTRIES, SUCH AS IRAN, DO NOT HAVE WHO REPS.

4. IN TRYING TO SORT OUT WHAT UNDERLIES THIS UNFORTUNATE DEVELOPMENT, WE HAVE MORE IN THE WAY OF SUPPOSITION THAN FACTS TO GO ON. THE THEORY OF THE ACTING WHO REP, JULIAN ZULUETA, WHO IS A SPANIARD, IS THAT REGIONAL DIRECTOR

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 147094

TABA WANTS ZULUETA TO LEAVE PAKISTAN. ZULUETA, THOUGH GENTLE IN STYLE, IS EXTRAORDINARILY CAPABLE. A WEAKER WHO IN PAKISTAN WOULD MEAN MORE POWER FOR ALEXANDRIA. ZULUETA'S THEORY IS LENT SOME CREDENCE BY THE FACT THAT SIMULTANEOUS WITH TABA'S INITIATIVE TO CLOSE THE OFFICE, A PERSONNEL ACTION WAS TAKEN WHICH WILL DRASTICALLY CUT ZULUETA'S PAY. IN BRIEF, TABA INFORMED HIM THAT HE WAS BEING REDESIGNATED AS MALARIOLOGIST INSTEAD OF CONSULTANT MALARIOLOGIST. THIS WILL HAVE THE EFFECT OF REDUCING ZULUETA'S TAKE-HOME PAY BY \$900 A MONTH AND PUT HIM AT EXACTLY THE LEVEL OF HIS RETIREMENT INCOME, AND ZULUETA IS ELIGIBLE TO RETIRE. ZULUETA ALSO SPECULATES THAT, AFTER HIS DEPARTURE, ALEXANDRIA WILL REVERSE ITSELF AND REOPEN THE WHO OFFICE IN PAKISTAN WITH AN ARAB OR AN IRANIAN IN CHARGE.

5. WE DO NOT KNOW WHY THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN APPARENTLY PLANS TO LET TABA'S INITIATIVE TAKE EFFECT ON SEPTEMBER 30. EAD SECRETARY AFTAB AHMAD KHAN CONSULTED WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY AGA SHAHI ON THE MATTER. WE DON'T KNOW WHAT WAS SAID, BUT ONE THEORY IS THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY PERCEIVES PAKISTAN'S BROADER POLITICAL INTERESTS AS BEING BETTER SERVED BY HAVING AN ARAB OR AN

IRANIAN AS HEAD OF WHO HERE THAN A EUROPEAN.

6. FINALLY, THERE IS THE PUZZLING ROLE OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF HEALTH, PROFESSOR NASEER SHEIKH. ZULUETA FIRST LEARNED OF TABA'S INTENTION IN APRIL. HE TOOK THE MATTER TO NASEER, WHO TOLD HIM AND ALSO A USAID ASSISTANT DIRECTOR THAT HE WOULD NEVER PERMIT A SHUTDOWN OF THE WHO OFFICE AND WOULD SO INFORM TABA AT THE WHO MEETINGS IN GENEVA IN MAY. HOWEVER, AFTER CONFERRING WITH NASEER THERE, TABA SENT LETTERS TO ZULUETA AND UNDP RESREP EVERTS PRESENTING THE DECISION AS A FAIT ACCOMPLI AGREED TO BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL. THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL HAS RECENTLY CONFIDED TO A USAID REP THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO KEEP OPEN THE OPTION OF A WHO JOB OUTSIDE OF PAKISTAN.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 147094

NASEER IS THE PRIME MINISTER'S PERSONAL PHYSICIAN AND HIS PRIVATE CLINIC IN KARACHI WAS STONED DURING RECENT POLITICAL DISTURBANCES THERE. IT IS THUS ALTOGETHER POSSIBLE THAT THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, THOUGH FULLY APPRECIATING ZULUETA'S OUTSTANDING TALENTS AND PERFORMANCE, RELUCTANTLY DECIDED THAT HIS OWN PERSONAL INTERESTS LAY IN NOT EARNING THE WRATH OF A WHO POTENTATE AS POWERFUL AS TABA.

7. IT IS DIFFICULT FOR US TO RECOMMEND WHAT THE U.S. MIGHT DO TO EFFECT A BEST HAPPY ENDING TO THIS EASTERN-STYLE SOAP OPERA BECAUSE WE LACK NEEDED FACTS. WE DEPLORE THE PROSPECT OF ZULUETA'S LOSS TO THE MALARIA AND BASIC HEALTH SERVICES PROGRAMS BUT TABA'S ACTION TO CUT HIS PAY WOULD PROBABLY SPELL HIS DEPARTURE, WE THINK IN NOVEMBER, EVEN IF THE DECISION TO SHUT DOWN THE WHO OFFICE IN SEPTEMBER WERE TO BE REVERSED BEFORE THEN. AT VERY LEAST, WE PLAN TO INSIST ON ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS THAT WILL ALLOW WHO ADVISOR IN MALARIA AND BASIC HEALTH TO FUNCTION WITH NO MORE RED TAPE AND DELAY THAN THEY FACE WITH A WHO REPRESENTATIVE AND OFFICE OPERATING IN PAKISTAN. WE DO NOT KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT AID/WASHINGTON'S RELATIONSHIPS WITH WHO/GENEVA AND EMRO TO BE ABLE TO ADVISE ON WHAT MORE MIGHT BE DONE BY THE U.S. TO PREVENT THE CLOSEDOWN OF THE OFFICE OR THE EARLY LOSS OF ZULUETA.

8. WE WOULD WELCOME INITIATIVES AND ADVISE FROM AID/W AS APPROPRIATE.
CONSTABLE UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HEALTH, CLOSURE OF OFFICES, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE147094
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: IO/HDC:RANDREW:LW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770226-0323
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770624/aaaaaunr.tel
Line Count: 165
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: fee9ce77-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 141864, 77 ISLAMABAD 6073
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2049518
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CLOSING OF WHO OFFICE-PAKISTAN
TAGS: AORG, SOPN, PK
To: GENEVA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fee9ce77-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009